



**SOUTH  
CENTRE**

**South Centre Statement to the Open-Ended Meeting of WHO Member States:  
Follow-up of the report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research  
and Development: Financing and Coordination (CEWG)**

2-4 May 2016, WHO Headquarters, Geneva

Distinguished Chair and other distinguished delegates and representatives from  
NGOs,

The South Centre, as an intergovernmental organisation, takes this opportunity to  
congratulate both the Chair and Vice Chair for their selection.

As many of you know, the South Centre has been actively following different  
processes and deliberations around access to medicines, that are taking place within  
and outside of WHO such as the CEWG process and the UNHLP process.

We attach great importance to this Open Ended Meeting of WHO Member States.  
This meeting - taking place after 3.5 years - is expected to provide a clear direction to  
the remaining recommendations of CEWG.

Let us recall WHA 66.22 which provides the mandate for this group which requested  
the DG to convene another open-ended meeting of Member States, in order to assess  
progress and continue discussions on the remaining issues in relation to monitoring,  
coordination and financing for health research and development, taking into account  
all relevant analyses and reports, including the analysis of the report of the  
Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing and  
Coordination”.

We think that it would have been useful if the Secretariat had developed a document  
listing pending issues in relation to monitoring, coordination and financing for health  
research and development. This would have facilitated a more focused discussion.

We feel that the observatory and the demonstration projects are not the central issues  
in the recommendations from CEWG. We would like to state that the major  
remaining issue in this context is the CEWG recommendation for a binding  
treaty/agreement or convention based on Article 19 of the WHO Constitution.

Yesterday’s discussion, especially on the demonstration projects, clearly shows that  
the voluntary funding is not working. This calls for a new mechanism to ensure a  
sustainable funding mechanism for R&D based on the principle laid down by the  
CEWG.

Against this background we call upon Member States to shed the shyness and take bold steps to begin concrete discussions to start negotiations for a binding legal instrument on R&D financing and coordination including prioritisation instead of fragmented implementation of CEWG recommendations and WHO to assert its leadership role.

Thank you.